



The Value of Trees

The fall season brings summer vacations and other fun outdoor activities to a close, but it opens the doors of opportunity to plant trees and create landscaping that offers many benefits to you and the environment.

The following are some statistics on just how important trees and landscaping are in a community setting:

"A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000." —*Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers*

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people."—*U.S. Department of Agriculture*

"There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO₂ every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs."—*National Wildlife Federation*

"Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating."—*USDA Forest Service*

"The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams."—*USDA Forest Service*.

Additional resources:

Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place – S.C. Forestry Commission
www.state.sc.us/forest/urbsq04.htm

Native Plants for Wildlife – S.C. Native Plant Society
www.scnps.org

Free Trees! - The National Arbor Day foundation
www.arborday.org

This message has been brought to you by DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality (Sonya Younger) and the EQC Education and Outreach Committee. Visit the EQC Education and Outreach web site at www.scdhec.gov/eqc/outreach to access more information on DHEC's many environmental education and outreach programs